

CLAIMS

[c1] 1. A method in a computer system for organizing web site and expert information, the method comprising:

providing a hierarchical organization, the hierarchical organization specifying topmost categories, intermediate categories, and bottommost categories;

receiving for a plurality of bottommost categories a specification of a web site and a specification of an expert;

storing in a web site store the received specifications of web sites in association with the bottommost categories;

storing in an expert store the received specifications of experts in association with the bottommost categories;

receiving from a user a bottommost category;

retrieving from the web site store the specification of a web site associated with the received bottommost category;

retrieving from the expert store the specification of an expert associated with the received bottommost category; and

sending to the user the retrieved specification of the web site and the retrieved specification of the expert.

[c2] 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the hierarchical organization is used to organize documents.

[c3] 3. The method of claim 1 including
receiving from the user a non-bottommost category;

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retrieving from the web site store the specifications of web sites associated with bottommost categories within the received non-bottommost category;
retrieving from the expert store the specifications of experts associated with bottommost categories within the received non-bottommost category; and
sending to the user the retrieved specifications of the web sites and the retrieved specifications of the experts.

- [c4] 4. The method of claim 1 including
receiving for a plurality of non-bottommost categories a specification of a web site and a specification of an expert;
storing in a web site store the received specifications of web sites in association with the non-bottommost categories; and
storing in an expert store the received specifications of experts in association with the non-bottommost categories.
- [c5] 5. The method of claim 4 including
receiving from the user a non-bottommost category;
retrieving from the web site store the specification of a web site associated with the received non-bottommost category;
retrieving from the expert store the specification of an expert associated with the received non-bottommost category; and
sending to the user the retrieved specification of the web site and the retrieved specification of the expert.
- [c6] 6. The method of claim 5 wherein only the specifications directly associated with the received non-bottommost category are retrieved.

[c7] 7. The method of claim 5 wherein all specifications indirectly associated with the received non-bottommost category are retrieved.

[c8] 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the specification of a web site includes a URL for the web site.

[c9] 9. The method of claim 1 wherein the specification of an expert includes a name for the expert.

[c10] 10. The method of claim 1 wherein the specification of an expert includes an electronic mail address for the expert.

[c11] 11. The method of claim 1 wherein the specification of an expert includes a telephone number for the expert.

[c12] 12. The method of claim 1 wherein the specification of an expert includes a URL for a web page containing information relating to the expert.

[c13] 13. A method in a computer system for managing non-document specifications based on a hierarchy of documents, the method comprising:
 providing a hierarchical organization of documents;
 providing a hierarchical organization of non-document specifications based on the provided hierarchical organization of documents;
 receiving a category within the hierarchical organization;
 retrieving non-document specifications associated with the received category; and
 sending the retrieved non-document specifications associated with the received category
wherein non-document specifications are hierarchically organized using the same hierarchy used to organize documents.

- [c14] 14. The method of claim 13 wherein the non-document specifications include web site specifications.
- [c15] 15. The method of claim 13 wherein the non-document specifications include expert specifications.
- [c16] 16. The method of claim 13 including retrieving documents associated with the received category and sending the retrieved documents along with the retrieved non-document specifications.
- [c17] 17. The method of claim 13 wherein a non-document specification includes an attribute for use in searching for non-document specifications.
- [c18] 18. The method of claim 13 wherein the category is received from a user and the retrieved non-document specifications are sent to the user.
- [c19] 19. The method of claim 13 wherein the providing of a hierarchy of non-document specifications includes receiving a category and a non-document specification from a user.
- [c20] 20. The method of claim 13 wherein the providing of a hierarchy of non-document specifications includes receiving from a user a non-document specification along with multiple categories with which the non-document specification is associated.
- [c21] 21. The method of claim 13 wherein non-document specifications are associated with bottommost categories.
- [c22] 22. The method of claim 13 wherein non-document specifications are associated with bottommost and non-bottommost categories.

- [c23] 23. The method of claim 13 wherein non-document specifications include web site and expert specifications.
- [c24] 24. The method of claim 13 wherein, when the received category is a non-bottommost category, retrieving non-document specifications associated indirectly with the non-bottommost category.
- [c25] 25. The method of claim 13 wherein, when the received category is a non-bottommost category, retrieving only non-document specifications associated directly with the non-bottommost category.
- [c26] 26. The method of claim 13 wherein the non-document specification includes a URL for a web site.
- [c27] 27. The method of claim 26 wherein the web site is internal to an entity that provides the hierarchical organization.
- [c28] 28. The method of claim 26 wherein the web site is external to an entity that provides the hierarchical organization.
- [c29] 29. The method of claim 13 wherein the non-document specification includes a name of an expert.
- [c30] 30. The method of claim 13 wherein the non-document specification includes an electronic mail address of an expert.
- [c31] 31. The method of claim 13 wherein the non-document specification includes a telephone number of an expert.

- [c32] 32. The method of claim 13 wherein the non-document specification includes a URL for a web page containing information relating to an expert.
- [c33] 33. The method of claim 13 wherein the sending includes sending web site specifications, expert specifications, and documents associated with the received category.
- [c34] 34. A method in a computer system accessing non-document specifications, the method comprising
 coordinating browsing by a user through a hierarchical organization of non-document specifications, the hierarchical organization being based on a hierarchical organization of documents;
 receiving from the user a selection of a category within the hierarchical organization;
 requesting non-document specifications associated with the selected category;
 receiving the requested non-document specifications; and
 displaying to the user the received non-document specifications.
- [c35] 35. The method of claim 34 wherein the non-document specifications include web site specifications.
- [c36] 36. The method of claim 34 wherein the non-document specifications include expert specifications.
- [c37] 37. The method of claim 34 including receiving documents associated with the selected category and displaying the received documents along with the received non-document specifications.

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- [c38] 38. The method of claim 34 wherein the requesting includes sending a request to a server computer system and the receiving of the requested non-document specifications includes receiving from the server computer system.
- [c39] 39. The method of claim 34 wherein non-document specifications are associated with bottommost categories.
- [c40] 40. The method of claim 34 wherein non-document specifications are associated with bottommost and non-bottommost categories.
- [c41] 41. The method of claim 34 wherein non-document specifications include web site and expert specifications.
- [c42] 42. The method of claim 34 wherein, when the selected category is a non-bottommost category, the received non-document specifications include those associated indirectly with the non-bottommost category.
- [c43] 43. The method of claim 34 wherein, when the received category is a non-bottommost category, the non-document specification includes only those directly associated with the non-bottommost category.
- [c44] 44. The method of claim 34 wherein the non-document specification includes a URL for a web site.
- [c45] 45. The method of claim 44 wherein the web site is internal to an entity that provides the hierarchical organization.
- [c46] 46. The method of claim 44 wherein the web site is external to an entity that provides the hierarchical organization.

- [c47] 47. The method of claim 34 wherein the non-document specification includes a name of an expert.
- [c48] 48. The method of claim 34 wherein the non-document specification includes an electronic mail address of an expert.
- [c49] 49. The method of claim 34 wherein the non-document specification includes a telephone number of an expert.
- [c50] 50. The method of claim 34 wherein the non-document specification includes a URL of a web page containing information relating to an expert.
- [c51] 51. The method of claim 34 wherein the displaying includes displaying web site specifications, expert specifications, and documents associated with the selected category on a single web page.
- [c52] 52. A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer system to manage non-document specifications based on a hierarchy of documents, by a method comprising:
receiving a category within the hierarchical organization;
retrieving non-document specifications associated with the received category, the non-document specifications being hierarchically organized into categories based on a hierarchical organization of documents; and
sending the retrieved non-document specifications associated with the received category.
- [c53] 53. The computer-readable medium of claim 52 wherein the non-document specifications include web site specifications.

- [c54] 54. The computer-readable medium of claim 52 wherein the non-document specifications include expert specifications.
- [c55] 55. The computer-readable medium of claim 52 including retrieving documents associated with the received category and sending the retrieved documents along with the retrieved non-document specifications.
- [c56] 56. The computer-readable medium of claim 52 wherein non-document specifications are associated with bottommost categories.
- [c57] 57. The computer-readable medium of claim 52 wherein non-document specifications are associated with bottommost and non-bottommost categories.
- [c58] 58. The computer-readable medium of claim 52 wherein non-document specifications include web site and expert specifications.
- [c59] 59. The computer-readable medium of claim 52 wherein, when the received category is a non-bottommost category, retrieving non-document specifications associated indirectly with the non-bottommost category.
- [c60] 60. The computer-readable medium of claim 52 wherein, when the received category is a non-bottommost category, retrieving only non-document specifications associated directly with the non-bottommost category.
- [c61] 61. The computer-readable medium of claim 52 wherein the non-document specification includes a URL for a web site.
- [c62] 62. The computer-readable medium of claim 52 wherein the non-document specification includes a name of an expert.

- [c63] 63. The computer-readable medium of claim 52 wherein the non-document specification includes a URL of a web page containing information relating to an expert.
- [c64] 64. The computer-readable medium of claim 52 wherein the sending includes sending web site specifications, expert specifications, and documents associated with the received category via a single web page.
- [c65] 65. A computer system for providing access to non-document specifications based on a hierarchy of documents, comprising:
means for receiving a category within the hierarchical organization;
means for retrieving non-document specifications associated with the received category, the non-document specifications being hierarchically organized into categories based on a hierarchical organization of documents; and
means for sending the retrieved non-document specifications associated with the received category.
- [c66] 66. The computer system of claim 65 wherein the non-document specifications include web site specifications.
- [c67] 67. The computer system of claim 65 wherein the non-document specifications include expert specifications.
- [c68] 68. The computer system of claim 65 wherein non-document specifications are associated with bottommost categories.
- [c69] 69. The computer system of claim 65 wherein non-document specifications are associated with bottommost and non-bottommost categories.

- [c70] 70. The computer system of claim 65 wherein non-document specifications include web site and expert specifications.
- [c71] 71. The computer system of claim 65 wherein the non-document specification includes a URL for a web site.
- [c72] 72. The computer system of claim 65 wherein the non-document specification includes a name of an expert.
- [c73] 73. The computer system of claim 65 wherein the non-document specification includes a URL for a web page containing information relating to an expert.
- [c74] 74. The computer system of claim 52 wherein the means for sending includes means for sending web site specifications, expert specifications, and documents associated with the received category.
- [c75] 75. A method for organizing web sites based on an organization of documents, the method comprising:
 providing the organization of the documents, the organization having categories;
 receiving specifications of a plurality of web sites; and
 assigning each web site to a category of the organization of documents so that web sites can be located based on the organization of documents.
- [c76] 76. The method of claim 75 including
 receiving a category; and
 in response to the receiving the category, providing a specification of a web site assigned to the received category.

- [c77] 77. The method of claim 75 wherein the organization is hierarchical.
- [c78] 78. The method of claim 77 wherein, when the received category is a non-bottommost category, providing a specification of a web site assigned directly to that received category.
- [c79] 79. The method of claim 77 wherein, when the received category is a non-bottommost category, providing a specification of a web site assigned indirectly to that received category.
- [c80] 80. The method of claim 75 wherein the specification of a web site includes a URL.
- [c81] 81. The method of claim 75 wherein experts are also assigned to categories.
- [c82] 82. A method for organizing experts based on an organization of documents, the method comprising:
 providing the organization of the documents, the organization having categories;
 receiving specifications of a plurality of experts; and
 assigning each expert to a category of the organization of documents so that experts can be located based on the organization of documents.
- [c83] 83. The method of claim 82 including
 receiving a category; and
 in response to the receiving of the category, providing a specification of an expert assigned to the received category.
- [c84] 84. The method of claim 82 wherein the organization is hierarchical.

- [c85] 85. The method of claim 84 wherein, when the received category is a non-bottommost category, providing a specification of an expert assigned directly to that received category.
- [c86] 86. The method of claim 84 wherein, when the received category is a non-bottommost category, providing a specification of an expert assigned indirectly to that received category.
- [c87] 87. The method of claim 82 wherein the specification of an expert includes a URL for a web page containing information relating to the expert.
- [c88] 88. The method of claim 82 wherein web sites are also assigned to categories.